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DSE MARKET 848.32 (+ 0.18%) Merket capital Tk Transactions in volume ransactions in value Tk 46.71 million

CSE MARKET

398.03 (+ 2.63%) Market capital Tk 8343133545.00 ransactions in volume Tk 127675 ransactions in value

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NEWS BRIEFS

Spl courts in 61 dists set up

The government has set up special courts for prevention of repression on women and children in 61 districts of the country. The courts have been set up as per the power vested with the government under Woman and Child Repression (Special Provision) Act. 1995. The courts are deemed to have started functioning with effect from July 17, 1995, reports BSS.

303 Rohingyas go home

From Our Correspondent COX'S BAZAR, Oct 12: A total of 303 Rohingya refugees of 39 families repatriated to Myanmar today. With this, a total of 1,93,609 refugees returned home while 67,268 others are waiting here for their turn to go

T&T employee electrocuted

By DMCH Correspondent A T&T employee was electrocuted at the Nayabazar road crossing in the old part of the city yesterday. Three others were also injured. Nuruddin, 52, died on the way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The injured Sirajul Huq. 50. Akhtaruzzaman, 45, and Abul Bashar, 30, were admitted to the DMCH, medical sources said. The accident occurred when the employees of the T&T were working with underground cables at about six

in the evening.

Bangladesh holds special interest for Iran, says Rafsanjani

By Diplomatic Correspondent

Tehran-Chittagong joint

chamber inaugurated

Visiting Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has expressed the hope that Bangladesh and Iran would work together to achieve progress in the field of economic cooperation.

Addressing a news conference at the International Conference Centre in the city on the third day yesterday of his four-day state visit, the Iranian President said, Bangladesh holds special interest for us. We are not only bound by emotional and cultural ties. "Yours is one of the largest Muslim countries which is not dependent on others.

were signed between the two

CHITTAGONG, Oct 12

Iranian President Akbar

Hashemi Rafsanjani, who vis-

ited the port city today, for-

mally inaugurated the Te-

hran-Chittagong Joint Cham-

ber of Commerce, reports

President Rafsanjani cut :

cake at a colourful ceremony

at the Chittagong Club audito-

rium in the morning, launch-

ing the joint chamber. Later,

he offered munajat for its

success in bolstering interac-

tion in the field of trade and

Addressing the function.

the visiting Iranian President

appreciated the idea of the

joint chamber, saying that it

is a "good and timely initia-

tive". He expressed his op-

timism that identical ideolog-

ical feelings and sincerity of

commerce.

countries were implemented. "We shall inshallah have signilicant developments in the

ASHWIN 28 1402 BS,

field of bilateral cooperation." Referring to the agreement signed for the setting up of a second oil refinery at Chittagong, he said the project would have a refining capacity of 60,000 barrels a day and oil for the refinery would be provided by Iran.

Rafsanjani replied to all the questions from the media and even after the conducting official who served as interpreter closed taking questions, the President replied to some.

He touched on a wide array Describing his visit as "very of subjects ranging from the fruitful" Rafsanjani said that OIC to the US sanctions, when the agreements that stranded Pakistanis, the

the people of the two broth

culv countries would materi

"I hope we could share

many things in future and

strengthen the relation be-

tween the peoples of the two

historic cities with the for-

mation of Tehran-Chittagong

joint chamber," said Rajsan-

jani. "I will witness the ad-

vancement and progress of

the relations that we com-

the Chittagong Chamber of

Commerce and Industry

(CCCI), was also addressed by

special envoy to the Prime

Minister M Morshed Khan,

Iranian Commerce Minister

Ale Ishaque, Secretary Gen-

eral of the Iran Chamber of

Commerce and Industry and

See Live - Col 4

The function, arranged by

mitted now.

alise this "courageous" step.



President Rafsanjani addressing a press conference yesterday. -Star photo

Agreements signed

Bangladesh, Iran and Turkmenistan yesterday signed a trilateral memorandum of understanding (MOU) on international road and rail transport and transit at a simple function attended by visiting Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, reports BSS.

Seven other memorandum of understandings (MOUs) between Bangladesh and Iran were also signed at the same function held at the International Conference Centre

The seven MOUs were in the areas of energy, investment, agriculture, prevention of drug trafficking, environment, cultural, scientific and technical exchange and post and telecommunications.

The trilateral MOU on in ternational road and rail transport and transit was signed by Commerce and Information Minister Shamsul Islam, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayeti and Turkmenistan's foreign and economic relations minister Orazov Meret Balramovice.

This trilateral MOU would provide the opportunity of Bangladesh goods getting access to the countries in the central Asia, an official said.

The seven other MOUs between Iran and Bangladesh were signed at the levels of minister, state minister, deputy minister and secretary of the two countries representing their respective ministries.

Later, commenting on the MOU Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told a press conference that this would help promote further

Ser I'm 8 Col 8

EC deadline for by-poll schedule Nov 23

Political camps have only five weeks' time

By Nurul Kabir

The contending political camps, if they went to resolve the persisting political impasse through dialogue. have to reach a consensus by the third week of next month on holding general elections under a caretaker govern-

JAMADI-UL-AWAL 17, 1416 HIJRI

The Election Commission (EC) is constitutionally obliged to announce the schedule for by-elections for the vacated Opposition seats in Parliament by November 23.

The agitating opposition camp has been demanding a non-party caretaker government for holding the elections, while the ruling

Bangladesh Nationalist party (BNP) is ready to accept an interim government within the ambit of the Constitution. The BNP has also announced that it is ready to accept an interim administration without Prime Minister and party chief Begum Khaleda Zia at the top.

The ruling party is reportedly ready to accommodate five opposition MPs into a 10-member interim minicabinet headed by a BNP leader other than Begum Zia.

If an interim or caretaker government is to be formed within the framework of the Constitution, and if the opposition representatives are to

be accommodated in that cabinet, the opposition parties must have their representatives elected through by-elections-leaving aside the question of ratification of the arrangement by the next parliament. Because, the Constitution does not allow a non-MP to become the Prime Minister of the country. while it allows only 10 per cent of the cabinet members from technocrats quota.

But the Election Commission (EC) is, irrespective of any political understanding. constitutionally obliged to announce the schedule for by-elections for the 141 Op-See Page 8 Col 3

Army not provided with adequate relief for distribution: Hasina

BOGRA, Oct 12: Awami League President Sheikh Hasina today asked the government to provide adequate relief materials to the Armed Forces for distribution among the flood votims in the northern districts, reports

"They (army) do not have enough relief in their possession to distribute among the flood affected people,' she said, adding that twothirds people of the flood-hit districts were affected by the flood devastation.

Addressing several wayside gatherings and public rallies in Bogra and Siraigani districts. Hasina said members of the Armed Forces were given the responsibility of distributing relief without arranging adequate relief

The scanty relief for the vast number of flood victims has added to their misery. she said. On the concluding day of

her four-day visit, Hasina today addressed a public meeting at Sonatala station ground and wayside crowds at Bocharpukur, Mokamtala bus stand and Chandaikona

She also visited relief centres at the Malatinagar High School in Bogra town, Mokamtala High School, Bocharpukur and Ranipara at Sonatala and distributed relief materials among the flood-hit people.

The Awami League chief alleged that the distribution of relief is confined to radio and television and said the

government is bluffing the people by showing "camera relief."

Hasina said unplanned

construction of roads, embankments, bridges and culverts was the cause of flood that left thousands of people homeless. Demanding immediate

supply of adequate relief materials, medicine and pure drinking water, she said epidemics might break out after the recession of water. The Awami League chief

also asked for proper rehabilitation of the homeless people, agricultural loans for farmers and withdrawal of all

certificate cases. Earlier, talking to local journalists at the Bogra Cir-

cuit House, Hasina said over-See Page 8 Col 8

Pure Food Ordinance '59

Lack of coordination delays amendment

By Morshed Ali Khan

Lack of coordination among various ministries is delaying the much needed amendment to the age-old Pure Food Ordinance, according to official sources.

A move to mend the Pure Food Ordinane was first initiated in 1987 with the formation of an inter-ministerial committee. In the later years the old ordinance of 1959 was reviewed by experts at the Institute of Public Health (IPH) and a draft proposal for amending the ordinance was prepared.

According to scientists and other relevant officials of in the country.

the Health Department, the amendment of the old law has become "very much necessary" in the face of widespread food adulteration

The Institute of Public

Health recently disclosed that more than 45 per cent of the foodstuff tested over a period of one year were found to be adulterated. Food scientists, lawyers

and police officials, when contacted, all agreed that the existing Pure Food Ordinance needed to be amended immediately to tackle the situa-

The inter-ministerial committee, comprising representatives from the commerce, finance, industries and the health ministries and headed by the Local Government Minister, later formed a working committee headed by the Commerce Secretary in November 1993, involving all five ministries.

See Page 8 Col 6

Flood situation in Sirajganj worsens

From Our Correspondent SIRAJGANJ, Oct 12: The flood situation in Raiganj and Tarash thanas has further worsened following an alarming rise in the water levels of the Korotoa, Fulzore, Bangali and Gomani rivers during the last 24 hours.

Two bridges at Telizani and Chandaikona collapsed due to heavy pressure of flood water snapping the road communication of Raigani with the district headquarters and affecting about eight thousand people of 15 vil-

The marooned people could not be rescued till filing of this report tonight.

Meanwhile, ten persons, including three children. remained missing after a boat capsized in the river Fulzore last night. The boat was carrying some 25 passengers.

Ceasefire in Bosnia takes effect

A makeshift bamboo loading-bridge is being used at the Sadarghat cargo terminal since the original steel structure was

SARAJEVO, Oct 12. A Bosnian-wide ceasefire took effect today at one minute after midnight (2301 GMT Wednesday), heralding the prospect of an end to Europe's worst conflict since World War Two, reports Reuter.

damaged quite sometime ago.

US President Bill Clinton and the United Nations urged the warring parties to respect the truce and seize the chance of securing a lasting settlement at the negotiating

The Bosnian capital Sarajevo was quiet, its gas and electricity supplies restored as part of conditions for the

The city was under a cur-

few that began at 10 pm and. apart from patrolling security forces, the streets were de-

A policeman at a check point on Tito street, the main thoroughfare, shrugged when asked about the truce and said: "Wait and see"

A big blast rocked the city about 40 minutes before the truce. Police could not tell whether it was a shell or a gas explosion triggered by the resumption of supplies to households through war-

damaged underground pipes It was not immediately clear whether the guns had been silenced in northwest

Bosnia where the Muslim-led

government and its Serb foes

fought pitched battles on Wednesday for last-minute

territorial gains. The government and Serb officials signed the truce pact on Wednesday afternoon and army leaders issued orders to their men to stop shooting at

the appointed time. The truce is due to last 60 days and peace talks are scheduled to begin on October 31 somewhere on the east coast of the United The truce is the latest of

many in the Bosnian war but

this time expectations are

high. It might be the first

step to end the 3-1/2 year

conflict in which 200,000

people have been killed or

are missing. More than two million have been forced to flee their homes

- Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Clinton welcomed the ceasefire agreement. "The president calls on all the parties to abide by the terms on the ceaselire and to seize the opportunity to work out their differences at the bargaining table," said a White

House statement. The truce should give further impetus to diplomatic efforts, the statement said. US negotiators would return to the Balkan region next week, it said, after a meeting of the contact group nations - the United States, Russia, Germany, France and Britain - in Moscow on October 17.

Chuadanga incident Arrested policemen suspended

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Oct 12: The two policemen, allegedly involved in the rape of a teenaged girl near the Chuadanga railway station. were suspended from duty today.

ilder of the railway police was also suspended from his du-

This was disclosed by the Police Superintendent of Chuadanga, Jahangir Hossain. The decision was taken after the DIG (Khulna range), Sir Page 8 Col 6

In addition, another hav-

ties for negligence.

স্টল/প্যাভিলিয়ন বরাদ্ধ বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয় ও রপ্তানি উনুয়ন ব্যুরোর যৌথ উদ্যোগে ঢাকার শেরে বাংলা নগরস্থিত প্র্যানিং কমিশনের দক্ষিণ-

ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা '৯৬ অনুষ্ঠিত হইবে। २। ज्ञानीय ও विष्मिनी जाशशी সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে এই মেলায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য দরখান্ত আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

পশ্চিম পার্শ্বে ১৯৯৬ সালের জানুয়ারী ০২-২০ সময়কালে

ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য

মেলা '৯৬ সচিবালয়

রপ্তানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো

১২২-১২৪, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা

एका- ১०००

(यनाय छन/भाषिनियन वंतात्मत निर्वातिष আবেদনপত্রের ফরম এবং অন্যান্য তথ্যাদির জন্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা '৯৬ সচিবালয়, রপ্তানি উনুয়ন ব্যুরোর সদর महदत यागायाग कतिवात जना जनुरताथ कता যাইতেছে

আবেদনপত্র জমা দেওয়ার সর্বশেষ ভারিখ ৩১ শে वर्ष्टीवत, ১৯৯৫ देश।

এ, এম, সুবিদ আলী

অংশগ্রহণকারী ও পণা নির্বাচন উপ-কমিটি ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্ঞা মেলা '৯৬

DFP-24921-11/10 G-1490

বাংলাদেশ চেম্বার অব ইন্ডাপ্তিজ

Low grade jute can now be turned into quality fibre By Staff Correspondent

The jute mills in the A pilot plant has also been country will be able to produce high quality fibres from low grade jute using the enzyme developed by the international Jute Organisation

To improve the quality of low grade jute and jute fibres. the IJO has developed the enzyme, with financial help of the international Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, and the Government of France

set up at Islam Jute Mills at Mirzapur in Tangail to produce enzyme on trial basis. Opening the plant yester-

day. Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah said, the enzyme plant, a milestone in the jute sector, will have a positive impact on the economy of the country. Expressing happiness over

the setting up of the plant which is the first of its kind in Bangladesh, the minister

solve some of the major problems of the local jute industries. The function was also ad-

hoped this would be able to

dressed by the State Minister for Planning. Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan the Charge d'Affaires of France in Bangladesh Francois de Grailly, IJO Executive Director K M Rabbani and Shamsul Islam Khan MP.

Dr Moyeen Khan spoke of the importance of bio-tech-

agricultural and industrial re-K M Rabbani said, the enzyme plant will help farmers

nology in the development of

get a better price for low grade jute. He said the enzyme was initially developed at the Bangladesh Jute Research In-

stitute (BJRI) under an IJO

project Under the leadership of Dr G Mohiuddin, the Project

and other jute mills of Bangladesh and Nepal. Later, the guests were taken around the plant and

Director, the enzyme was

successfully applied at BJRI

briefed about different stages of enzyme production. To begin with, the plant

will be able to produce 200 litres of enzymes per day which will be sufficient to improve about 8 tones of jute